

Story 1667 (1994 Tape 1)

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Adam Demonstrates Human Greed¹

Adam was created as the first human being on this earth. He said to himself, "This whole world is mine."

In order to test Adam, Allah sent the angel Gabriel down to earth in the form of a human being. When Gabriel arrived on earth, he said to Adam, "Don't think that you are alone on this earth, for I am here, too, and we are going to share the land."

Adam was very disturbed by this development, though he had no choice but to accept it. They divided all the land of the world into two equal parts and placed marker stones between their properties. But Adam was not at all satisfied with this division. He said to Gabriel, "My portion of land is smaller than yours! Let us move the

¹The narrator was told this tale by his father, who had had a lengthy dispute with a neighbor about the boundary line between their farms. Stone markers had been moved back and forth in this misunderstanding, though there had been no physical conflict. The narrator felt that his father had rationalized his own position by interpreting it as part of the human lot inherited from Adam.

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stone marker farther into your side."

The two began to argue about this, and after they had argued for a while, they began to fight each other. With the power of Allah behind the angel, Adam did not have any chance of winning that fight. Gabriel soon knocked him down and sat on him, but Adam never gave up completely. Defeated and exhausted, Adam continued wiggling his foot in an effort to push the marker farther into Gabriel's territory.